11th August 1954]

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know, Sir, by way of information whether the Hon. Minister has visited the Laccadive islands? If not, does he propose to make a visit at any time in the near future?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir, I propose to visit the place in December."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" I suggest that when the Hon. Minister goes there he may also be pleased to take some of the M.L.As. with him." (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The boat that is going to ply will be a small one. It may accommodate only five or six persons."

SRI K. M. SEETHI SAHIB :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government propose to run the steamer service themselves or allow a private concern to undertake the service?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The whole matter is under the consideration of the Government."

Grant of subsidies for carrying out repairs to tanks.

* 1255 *Q.*—SRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN (on behalf of Sri K. R. Viswanathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 418, dated 14th July 1953—

(*a*) whether the Government have considered the question of granting subsidies for undertaking repairs to tanks instead of for digging water wells in places where water is not found even though wells are sunk deep enough; and

(*b*) if so, the nature of their decision in the matter?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The suggestion is found to be not acceptable to Government."

Fire stations in the City.

* 1256 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many fire stations are functioning in the City of Madras;

(*b*) the total number of Chief Fire Brigadiers;

(*c*) the number of fire engines posted in each station ; and

(*d*) whether the members of the staff are provided with quarters attached to the Fire Stations?